

SUBJECT: Permitting carryover pull-tab bingo with a jackpot

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Kuempel, Guillen, Goldman, Hernandez, Herrero, S. Thompson
0 nays
3 absent — Frullo, Geren, Paddie

WITNESSES: For — Will Martin, American Legion Department of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steve Bresnen, Bingo Interest Group; Tom Stewart, Texas Charity Advocates; Roy Grona, Texas VFW)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Alfonso Royal III, Texas Lottery Commission)

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code, sec. 2001.420 establishes that a bingo prize may not have a value of more than \$750 for a single game. A person may not offer or award on a single bingo occasion prizes with an aggregate value of more than \$2,500 for all bingo games other than pull-tab bingo or bingo games that award individual prizes of \$50 or less. A licensed authorized organization or other person may not award or offer to award a door prize with a value of more than \$250.

Some have called for the state to allow an additional form of charitable bingo called carryover pull-tab bingo, in which prizes from successive event pull-tab bingos can accumulate to form a larger prize.

DIGEST: CSHB 1708 would allow carryover pull-tab bingo games to award a jackpot prize of more than \$750 for a single game and would add carryover pull-tab bingo to the games in which a person could offer on a single occasion prizes with an aggregate value of more than \$2,500. The

bill would cap the jackpot prize that could be awarded in a carryover pull-tab bingo game at \$10,000.

The bill would define carryover pull-tab bingo as a form of pull-tab bingo played in successive event pull-tab bingo deals. A portion of the bingo prize awarded to the event prize winner would be paid into a jackpot prize. The winner of the event prize for each deal would have the opportunity to win the jackpot prize, and the play would continue until the jackpot prize was awarded.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 856 by Lucio, was referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee on February 27.